

For the concise statement of relevance of listed Japanese documents 07-065704, 08-055563, and 09-161666, the Examiner is respectfully referred to the corresponding English Abstracts of those Japanese documents, of record in the parent application, and also to listed documents Hei 7-65704, 8-55563, and 9-161666, respectively, which are English translations of those corresponding Japanese documents, and which also are of record in the parent application. For the relevance of documents JP 09-237571 and JP 10-040807, the Examiner is respectfully referred to the corresponding English Abstracts of those documents, of record in the parent application, and also to U.S. Patent Nos. 6,221,426 and 6,334,803, respectively, which issued from Application Nos. 08/774,009 and 08/846,187, respectively, also of record in the parent application. One copy of each of U.S. Patents 6,221,426 and 6,334,803 is enclosed herewith, since those patents were not of record in the parent application.

For the concise statement of relevance of the other non-English documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449, except for JP 2836015, the Examiner is respectfully referred to the corresponding English Abstracts of those documents, of record in the parent application. A concise explanation of relevance for certain ones of the listed Japanese documents also can be found on pages 1, 2, and 11 of the specification, wherein those certain documents are referenced. An English Abstract for JP 2836015 is not readily available to Applicants' attorney, and therefore is not enclosed herewith.

U.S. Patent 6,123,876, listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449, issued from Application No. 08/627,566, which was of record in the parent application. A copy of U.S.

Patent 6,123,876 is enclosed herewith, since that patent was not of record in the parent application.

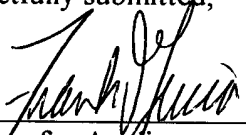
It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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